

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 30, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 697

Introduced by Senator Wiggins Yee

February 23, 2007

~~An act to amend Section 42241 of the Public Resources Code, relating to compost.~~ *An act to add Sections 12693.55 and 12698.26 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 697, as amended, ~~Wiggins Yee. Compost.~~ *Health care coverage: provider charges.*

Existing law creates the Healthy Families Program and the Access for Infants and Mothers Program that are administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board. Under existing law, both programs provide health care coverage, as specified, through participating health plans for persons meeting certain eligibility requirements.

This bill would prohibit, as specified, a health care service provider from seeking reimbursement for services furnished to a person enrolled in the Healthy Families Program or the Access for Infants and Mothers Program from other than the participating health plan covering that person. The bill would also make findings and declarations in that regard.

~~The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 requires the Department of Transportation, on or after January 1, 1991, to use~~

compost in place of, or to supplement, petroleum-based commercial fertilizers in the state's highway landscape maintenance program.

~~This bill would require the compost used by the department, and all persons contracting with that department, to be produced in the state.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~-no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 (a) *The Healthy Families Program (program) provides health*
4 *care coverage for uninsured children in families with incomes up*
5 *to 250 percent of the federal poverty level who are not eligible for*
6 *no-cost Medi-Cal.*

7 (b) *The program has reduced the rate of uninsured, low-income*
8 *children in California by 28.7 percent between 1997 and 2005.*

9 (c) *The program provides 760,000 children with access to*
10 *affordable health care coverage.*

11 (d) *The program provides access to health care for the state's*
12 *chronically underserved and uninsured children who would*
13 *otherwise have no means to obtain vital and basic health care*
14 *services.*

15 (e) *In addition to receiving reimbursement from the state*
16 *through contract managed care plans for services provided to*
17 *enrollees of the program, many health care providers seek*
18 *additional compensation by inappropriately billing patients of the*
19 *program directly for additional payments.*

20 (f) *Some health care providers seek reimbursement in amounts*
21 *in excess of 1,000 percent of what Medi-Cal reimburses for the*
22 *same services.*

23 (g) *Enrollees of the program with limited economic means*
24 *should not be subjected to aggressive billing practices from*
25 *overbilling providers who accept reimbursement from the program*
26 *and then seek an additional double payment by billing unsuspecting*
27 *enrollees for services previously compensated by the state's*
28 *taxpayers.*

29 (h) *Enrollees of the program already pay a monthly premium*
30 *to be enrolled in the program and are not obligated to pay these*
31 *excessive and improper double billings.*

1 (i) Enrollees of the program, including many with language
2 barriers and those who are low income, should not be subjected
3 to aggressive collection tactics, threats to their credit, and other
4 improper and coercive billing practices designed to intimidate
5 them into making excessive payments they are not obligated to
6 make.

7 (j) The practice of balance billing Medicare and Medi-Cal
8 enrollees is explicitly prohibited under existing federal and state
9 law.

10 SEC. 2. Section 12693.55 is added to the Insurance Code, to
11 read:

12 12693.55. (a) A health care provider who is furnished
13 documentation of a person's enrollment in the program shall not
14 seek reimbursement nor attempt to obtain payment for any services
15 provided to that person other than from the participating health
16 plan covering that person.

17 (b) The provisions of subdivision (a) do not apply to any
18 copayments or deductibles required for the services provided to
19 the person under his or her participating health plan.

20 SEC. 3. Section 12698.26 is added to the Insurance Code, to
21 read:

22 12698.26. (a) A health care provider who is furnished
23 documentation of a subscriber's enrollment in the program shall
24 not seek reimbursement nor attempt to obtain payment for any
25 services provided to that subscriber other than from the
26 participating health plan covering the subscriber.

27 (b) The provisions of subdivision (a) do not apply to any
28 copayments or deductibles required for the services provided to
29 the subscriber under his or her participating health plan.

30 ~~SECTION 1. Section 42241 of the Public Resources Code is~~
31 ~~amended to read:~~

32 ~~42241. The Department of Transportation, and a person~~
33 ~~contracting with that department, shall use compost produced in~~
34 ~~the state, in place of, or to supplement, petroleum-based~~
35 ~~commercial fertilizers in the state's highway landscape maintenance~~
36 ~~program.~~